

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 792

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend the courage and dedication of the firefighters of this State, honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the line of duty, and commemorate October 9, 2014, as "Firefighters' Memorial Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public safety and welfare, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in service of public safety; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through public service, dedicating their time and efforts to aiding those in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's fire departments are dedicated to the safety of life and property from the devastating effects of fire and are joined by the concerned citizens and government officials of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the U.S. Fire Administration reported 104 firefighters lost their lives across our great nation in the line of duty; two of those firefighters, David M. Schnepf of the Carter's Valley Fire Department and Richard J. Floersch of the Milan Fire Department, were Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, this great State has already lost another courageous public servant and hero, Firefighter Jerry Campbell of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we honor the loyal devotion of these selfless individuals both past and present who have committed themselves to the protection of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, founded in 2002, the Tennessee Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Committee works to commemorate the sacrifices of this State's firefighters who lost their lives in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Fallen Firefighters' Memorial acknowledges the sacrifices of firefighters who have died while serving Tennessee since 1876, currently 209; and

WHEREAS, it is with the memories of these fallen firefighters in our hearts and minds that we cherish the noble service of those professional and volunteer firefighters currently serving across this State and extol the commitments of this state's fire institutions and organizations that teach, train and protect, including the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Tennessee Fireman's Association, Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Tennessee Federation of Fire Chaplains, and Tennessee Professional Firefighters Association; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of all those brave men and women who place their lives in harm's way fighting fires, and those who have lost that battle in order to save and protect their fellow citizens, the state of Tennessee is proud to pause to remember and honor these heroes; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that those firefighters who have dedicated their lives to the service of humanity and those who have given their lives in this noble cause be recognized and remembered for their selfless sacrifice in service to the public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend the courage and dedication of the firefighters of this State, honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and commemorate October 9, 2014, as "Firefighters' Memorial Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.